



Mojigangas (Giant Puppets)

are often skeletal figures dressed in lively, festive clothing and posed in joyful, human-like activities, like dancing, playing music, or cooking. While they may be made from paper-mâché, wood, cloth, or clay, their primary purpose is to mock death and affirm the joy of life.

Where you'll see them:

Altars (Ofrendas): Puppets may be placed next to candles, flowers, and food offerings as playful symbols of the returning spirits.

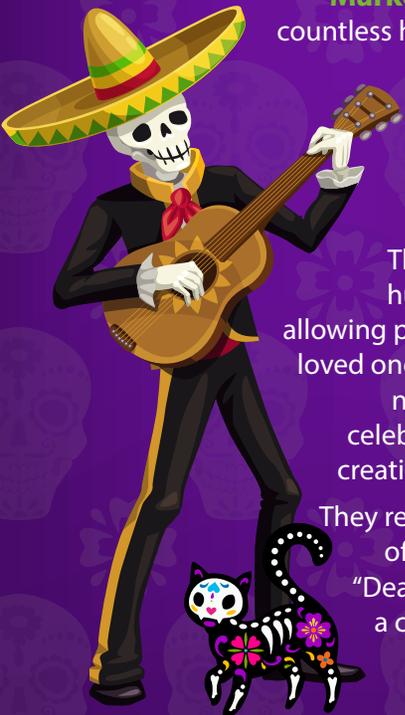
Parades & Street Performances: Life-sized or even giant puppets are carried or danced through the streets during processions.

Marketplaces: You'll find countless handcrafted versions for sale during October and early November.

Cultural Importance

These puppets bridge humor and reverence, allowing people to honor their loved ones, teaching children not to fear death, and celebrating heritage with creativity and community.

They reflect a core message of Día de Los Muertos: "Death is not the end, it's a continuation of life in another form."



Each year, the Denison Arts Council throws a festival to celebrate **Día de los Muertos** and Mexican heritage.



Our **Día de los Muertos** festival features live performances by musicians, dancers, and other artists; a variety of booths offering original art or other merchandise related to the holiday, and of course a parade! Come to Denison, first Saturday in November every year, to participate in this year's **Día de los Muertos** Festival.



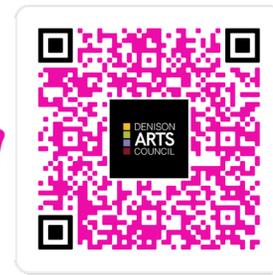
Since 2012



Día de los Muertos

Denison, Texas

1st Saturday in November



Día De Los Muertos Weekend



Monarch Butterflies



Every fall, millions of monarch butterflies fly a very long way from Canada and the U.S. to Mexico.

They arrive around the time of Día de los Muertos! Many people in Mexico believe that these beautiful butterflies carry the spirits of their ancestors who are coming back to visit. It's a magical connection between nature and tradition.

Bright Orange Marigolds

You'll see lots of bright orange and yellow flowers everywhere during Día de los Muertos! These are called marigolds, or cempasúchil (sem-pah-SOO-cheel) in Spanish.



People believe their strong, sweet smell and bright color help guide the spirits of our loved ones back home to their families. It's like a bright, fragrant path for them!



Friendly Skulls



Calaveras (kah-lah-VEH-rahhs) are skulls, but they are not meant to be scary. In Día de los Muertos, skulls are friendly and colorful. They remind us that death is a natural part of life and that we should not be afraid.

The Ofrenda:

A Bridge of Memory, Love, and Celebration

An ofrenda is the heart of the Día de los Muertos celebration. It is a temporary altar built not for worship but to honor the memory of the dead. Families create these beautiful displays to welcome the spirits of their loved ones home. Each altar is adorned with cherished photographs, guiding candles, and fragrant marigolds (cempasúchil). Favorite foods, pan de muerto, and water are set out to nourish the souls after their long journey. The ofrenda is a vibrant act of remembrance and a joyful bridge between the world of the living and the spirit world.

